

## Shropshire Councillor Report – March 2026

### Shropshire Council Budget 26/27

The Council agreed its budget for 2026/27 at a meeting of Full Council on 26 February. Like around 40 councils nationally, Shropshire Council will rely on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government to balance its budget for the year ahead. EFS is not grant funding but borrowing that must be repaid with interest, meaning the council must continue to minimise how much it relies on this support while working towards long-term financial sustainability.

To stabilise the council's financial position, councillors agreed a number of measures, including:

- An 8.99% increase in Council Tax – this is 4% more than it is normally capped at which will raise an additional £8.8 million in vital income for the council.
- Stopping the North West Relief Road project, which is no longer affordable given current financial pressures and rising projected costs.
- Rationalising the capital programme, including pausing or stopping capital schemes.

The decisions made today will help ensure the council can continue to deliver essential services while reducing its reliance on EFS in future years.

The council recognises the financial pressures facing many households and is encouraging residents who may struggle with the Council Tax increase to seek support.

[Information about the help available can be found on the council's website here.](#)

### Capital Strategy

Cabinet have undertaken a review of the current 2025/26 Capital Programme, as approved in February 2025 and identified the next steps for a number of schemes.

This includes the Sundorne Swimming Pool scheme which is paused pending a review of Shropshire's overall leisure centre requirements and Leisure Strategy development. The Pride Hill Shopping Centre Regeneration is also paused pending a wider regeneration and asset review.

Work on the Shrewsbury Smithfield / Riverside Development park construction will continue in line with commissioned contract arrangements and is fully funded from Levelling Up Funding. Remaining project paused pending site masterplan review.

The former White Horse Hotel, Wem – refurbishment scheme is to be paused pending an options review.

## **Provider Services Redesign**

It was agreed that there will be a public consultation for 8 weeks on the future of Helena Lane Day Service and the potential transfer of the Aquamira day service to the Abbots Wood site. Following the period of consultation, final recommendations will be presented to Cabinet for determination.

People who use day centres in Shropshire, their family members, carers, members of the public, professionals and our stakeholders can have their say on proposed changes to Shropshire Council's in-house day services.

This consultation is open until 26 March 2026 [Day centres consultation | Get Involved - Shropshire Council Consultation Portal](#)

## **Town and Parish Council Asset Transfer Policy and Process**

Cabinet approved the Town and Parish Council Asset Transfer Policy at a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February. This will provide a transparent and structured framework for transferring suitable council owned assets to Town and Parish councils to meet local needs and achieve local visions for the future in ways that may be more efficient and effective than the larger council.

Town/Parish Councils must be able to demonstrate the need within their community and a small business case is required to show the intended use to benefit the community.

## **Draft Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029**

This strategy sets out a collaborative, multi-agency plan to reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire over the next three years and is working to address the inequalities between rural and urban living. This consultation has been extended until March 9<sup>th</sup> 2026.

<https://staff.shropshire.gov.uk/news/domestic-abuse-consultation/>

## **Shropshire Support Finder 2026**

An updated guide to help Shropshire residents find information about health and social care support, voluntary organisations and community-based activities that are available across Shropshire can be found here [Shropshire Choices Support Finder | Care Choices](#)

## **Road Closures**

**Road Closure:** B4397 Burlton to B5063 junc Horton

**Start Date:** 30th March 2026

**End Date:** 1st April 2026

**Purpose:** Road Closure for carriageway repairs

**Works Promoter:** Shropshire Council

**Works Promoter Ref:** UJ20838537871

**Enforcement pattern for B4397 Burlton to B5063 junc:** 09.30-.16.00

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB148487350>

**Road Closure:** B4397 Burlton to B5063 junc

**Start Date:** 10th April 2026

**End Date:** 29th May 2026

**Purpose:** Site 70 surface dressing including sweeping and lining as follows:

Stud removal: 10/04/26

Dressing incl w/e: 08/05/26-10/05/26

Lock Chip: 21/05/26-22/05/26

Lining: 28/05/26-29/05/26

**Weekdays:** 09:30-16:00

**Weekends:** 06:00-18:00

***Please note that these works are weather dependent and subject to change.***

**Works Promoter:** Shropshire Council

**Works Promoter Ref:** UJ211SD26-70

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB148314732>

**Road Closure:** A528, through Burlton, Burlton (Sunday working)

**Start Date:** 31st May 2026

**End Date:** 31st May 2026

**Purpose:** Road Closure - Repair defective manhole frame and cover

**Works Promoter:** Severn Trent Water

**Works Promoter Ref:** LB7012204-000013701768B-02

**Enforcement pattern for A528, through Burlton, Burlton:** 9.30 - 15.30hrs

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=GB146673911>